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ABSTRACT

This study examined the relation between early family relationship patterns and adolescents' regulation of negative affect; attunement to their partners' affect; and capacity to balance their needs with those of their partner during conflict. A total of 27 college women completed measures pertaining to their relationship with their parents and their parents' marital relationship. The women and their boyfriends separately completed an intimacy questionnaire that measured closeness, reliance, and conflict. Partner dyads participated in four interaction tasks. Coders rated their interactions for positive affectivity, emotional engagement, balance, and hostility. Results indicated that females who had experienced father-daughter alliances reported less ability to rely on their partner and more anger toward their partner than did females who had not experienced such a family pattern. They were also observed to show less positive affect and emotional engagement with their partner; less ability to balance their needs with their partner's; and more hostility. Females who had experienced mother-daughter triangulation reported less reliance on their partner and more distance in their relationship than did females who had not experienced such a family pattern. They were also observed to have difficulty balancing their needs with their partner's. Twenty-one references are cited. (BC)

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Reconstruction of Family Relationships and Intimacy in Romantic Relationships

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The University of Texas at Austin

Paper presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Seattle, April 1991

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Reconstruction of Family Relationships and

Intimacy in Romantic Relationships

Theorists such as Erik Erikson contend that the formation of intimate relationships is the central developmental challenge of older adolescents. Those who have difficulties developing such a bond face isolation and self-absorption. In fact, feeling lonely and impairments in relationship functioning are the most common reasons people seek therapeutic help. Attachment researchers and practitioners alike advance the idea and have demonstrated that nuclear family relationships serve as prototypes for subsequent relationships. The aim of this paper is to examine the links between family relationships and older adolescents' capacity for intimacy with romantic partners.

In this paper, we will draw on attachment and family systems theory to understand how early family relationship patterns relate to adolescents' regulation of negative affect, attunement to their partners' affect, and capacity to balance their needs with those of their partner when conflicts arise. The notion that early family relationships influence peoples' strategies for regulating affect and negotiating conflict with intimate partners is derived from attachment theory. Children form expectations about whether others can be counted on in times of need from early family relationship experiences. This internal working model is then brought forward to influence the way individuals relate to others. Alan Sroufe and Byron Egeland's longitudinal research has demonstrated impressive continuity between security of attachment during infancy and 10-year olds' ability to develop close friends and, when interviewed, to express both positive and negative feelings about their friends. Bowlby contends that people continually rework early family relationships throughout their lives.

In contrast to theories which focus on the traditional parent-child relationship, family systems theories view individual development as a product of the complete internal structure of families, including both the marital and parent-child subsystems. In this view, the family unit is a

system of interconnected relationships, with the relationship the parents have with each other related to the quality of care they provide their children, and visa versa.

Within family systems work, mounting studies have validated the construct of intergenerational boundary violation. Research on family structures have focused on two kinds of generational boundary dissolution referred to as "cross-generational alliances" and "triangulation". The cross-generational alliances pattern is characterized by an emotionally distant marriage with little overt conflict. Spouses in these families do not rely on each other for support or express affection. In fact, one or both parents often seek intimacy and closeness with an opposite-sex child without providing that child with any of the needed parental guidance and support. The child is expected to listen to the parent's problems, empathize with his or her feelings, and provide him or her with encouragement and affection. Long-term negative effects include depression, anxiety, poor self-esteem and feelings of isolation and loneliness have been reported among children who grow up in families characterized by cross-generational alliances. Most of these reports, however, have been based on small clinical samples. In a longitudinal study which followed 187 non-clinical, "normal" families over time, Jay Belsky and his colleagues identified a pattern of role-reversal between mothers and their 3 1/2-year-old children. Mothers who engaged in this pattern were observed to be emotionally distant from their spouses. In another nonclinical longitudinal study, Alan Sroufe and I identified a stable pattern of mother-son interaction. When the children in this study were 2 years old, and again at 3 1/2 years, the mother-son relationship was characterized either by a reversal of the parent and child roles or by mothers' provocative and seductive behaviors, such as teasing, flirting and whispering with their sons. In other words, the mothers treated their sons as a romantic partner rather than as a young child. These mothers more often reported having less stable, less emotionally supportive, and less satisfying relationships with their partner. Compared with controls, these sons were more often rated by their kindergarten, first and

second grade teachers as having an Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

The second family pattern, "Triangulation", involves marital discord and expectations that the child mediate parental conflict either by siding with one parent against the other or by helping resolve disputes. Similar to "cross-generational alliances" the parents are emotionally distant. This pattern is distinguishable from cross-generational alliances, however, by the presence of marital conflict and alliances formed along gender lines (e.g., mother-daughter and father-son). Research with distressed families, defined as families in which at least one member presents clinical symptoms (e.g., depressed parent, hyperactive child), has shown that when spouses have conflicted marriages, they also have strong parent-child alliances (Lewis, Beaver, Grosett & Phillips, 1976; Spanier, 1976; Gilbert, Christensen & Margolin, 1984). Robert Emery and his colleagues, in their study of children's roles in marital conflict, have found that parents in normal families more often side with each other rather than their children during parent-child disputes (Vuchinich, Emery and Cassidy, 1988).

In our own work at Texas, I first examined whether older adolescent females would represent their childhood relationships with their parents in ways consistent with the two forms of intergenerational boundary violation and how this would relate to their level of self-esteem, depression and anxiety. We developed a measure to assess older adolescent females' representations of cross-generational alliances and triangulation. Two distinct family patterns emerged. Females who scored high on Father-Daughter Role-Reversal also scored high on Marital Distance and low on Marital Conflict. That is, a female who scored high on Father-Daughter Role-Reversal also tended to indicate that her father depended on her for emotional support--for example, she listened to her father's problems, helped him solve problems, or decided major family matters. These females also indicated that their father went to them for support before seeking support from their spouse. The daughter shared secrets with her father, and she felt she

understood her father better than did her mother. They also scored high on Marital Distance which measures the extent to which parents' did not provide each other with support and were emotionally distance rather than close. The parents neither listened to each others' problems nor provided the needed support, and they did not show pleasure and enthusiasm when the other spouse shared accomplishments, achievements, or interests. These women scored low on Marital Conflict which assesses the frequency and intensity of parents' conflict.

The Mother-Daughter Triangulation pattern was characterized by high scores on Mother-Daughter Role-Reversal, Conflict Mediation and Marital Conflict. The Mother-Daughter Role-Reversal scale items were similar to items on the Father-Daughter Role-Reversal Scale except that the word "mother" was replaced by "father" and pronouns "he" and "she" changed accordingly. These females also reported high Marital Conflict as well as Conflict Mediation which indicates that they tried to prevent or diminish her parents' fights either by taking charge and talking to them; distracting them with unrelated topics; joking or clowning around; misbehaving and acting up; or by taking sides with one parent over the other. She also reported taking responsibility for her parents' fights by believing that if she were different, her parents would not fight as much.

We then examined how older adolescent females' representation of the network of family relationships during childhoood and currently would relate to their level of self-esteem, depression and anxiety. Compared with controls, women who experienced intergenerational boundary violation with their fathers (i.e., cross-generational alliances) during early childhood were currently more depressed, more anxious, and experiencing lower self-esteem. These results were found even after controlling for the effects of the current family relationships and childhood physical abuse. On the other hand, women who experienced intergenerational boundary violations with their mothers, and

had mediated parental conflict (i.e., the triangulated pattern) did not differ significantly from controls on depression, anxiety, or self-esteem.

In the present study, we sought to examine links between females' history of generational boundary violation and their current relationship functioning. We hypothesize that females who experienced father-daughter alliances will recreate this family dynamic with their boyfriends. These females will have difficulties trusting and relying on their boyfriends to meet their emotional needs. Further, they will report more anger and unresolved conflict with their boyfriends and will be observed to express their anger indirectly in the form of put-downs, criticism, and derogatory remarks. They will also perceive themselves to be emotional distant from their partners and will be observed to show difficulties stay emotionally attuned to their partners' affect, becoming especially disengaged during periods of conflict. Finally, these women will report that they do not rely on their partner for support when needed and will be observed to have difficulties asserting their needs in general, and specifically, balancing their own needs with those of their partners when differences arise.

Similarly, it is hypothesized that women who experienced unmet needs and boundary violations with their mothers would be less likely to trust that their partner is emotionally available, and will view the relationship as emotionally distant. However, when conflicts arise with their boyfriends, we predict that these women are less likely to retreat emotionally and become disengaged. In fact, having mediated parental conflict in their own family of origin, they will be hypervigilant, becoming excessively attuned to their partners' affect, and will demonstrate difficulties balancing their own needs with those of their partner.

Finally, we examined the utility of considering the connection between marital and parent-

child relationships in understanding the capacity for intimacy. It is expected that females' reconstruction of their parents' marital relationship alone will not relate to their current intimate interactions. Rather, the internal model of the entire network of family relationships is predicted to relate to the older adolescents' modulation of negative affect, affective engagement, and negotiation of conflict in romantic relationships.

Method

Subjects

Subjects in this study were part of a larger ongoing longitudinal study in which 100 undergraduate females were recruited from classes at the University of Texas. Twenty-seven of the 100 females participated in this study with their boyfriends. Most participants were White (78%) and of middle socioeconomic status (85%). They ranged in age from 19 to 22 years (M = 20.56; SD = .74). All participants came from intact families and had resided in Austin for at least one year to help insure that they had opportunity to develop a relationship with a romantic partner.

Assessment Instruments

Subjects completed paper and pencil measures pertaining to their relationship with their parents, and their parents' marital relationship. Dyads independently completed paper and pencil measures of intimacy, and were videotaped while working together on four problem-solving tasks. Findings from dating couples will be presented today.

Family Relationships. Two questionnaires were used to assess childhood and current family patterns of "Mother-Daughter Triangulation" and "Father-Daughter Alliance". The Family Relationships Questionnaire and Marital Relationship Questionnaire are 55 item self-report questionnaires developed and validated by the first author in a previous study. Items map onto five scales: "Mother-Daughter Role-Reversal","Father-Daughter Role-Reversal","Conflict Mediation","Marital Conflict" and "Marital Support".

A high score on the Father-Daughter Role-Reversal Scale indicates that a subject reported that her father depended on her for emotional support--for example, she listened to her father's problems, helped him solve problems, or decided major family matters. The subject also endorsed items stating that her father went to her for support before seeking support from her mother, that she shared secrets with her father, and she felt she understood her father better than did her mother. A low score on the Father-Daughter Role-Reversal Scale indicates that the subject reported that her father did not rely on her to be his primary support. Instead, he generally sought emotional support from her mother. She did not share secrets with her father and, for the most part, she felt her mother knew dad better than she did. The Mother-Daughter Role-Reversal scale items were similar to items on the Father-Daughter Role-Reversal Scale except that the word "mother" was replaced by "father" and pronouns "he" and "she" changed accordingly.

A high score on the Conflict Mediation scale indicates that the daughter tried to prevent or diminish her parents' fights in a number of ways, either by taking charge and talking to them; distracting them with unrelated topics; joking or clowning around; misbehaving and acting up; or by taking sides with one parent over the other. She also reported taking responsibility for her parents' fights by believing that if she were different, her parents would not fight as much.
The Marital Conflict scale assesses the frequency and intensity of parents' conflict. Marital Support measures the extent to which parents' provided each other with support and were emotionally close rather than distant. High scores indicate that parents listened to each others' problems and provided the needed support, as well as showed pleasure and enthusiasm when the other spouse shared accomplishments, achievements, or interests.

Participants completed each item twice, once for recall of their family relationships during childhood and the other time to report on their current family relationship. Two week test-retest reliability on these scales with a sample of 65 college students ranged from ..67 to .89.

In a previous study, we combined these five scales based on significant intercorrelations into the two distinct family patterns -- Father-Daughter Alliances and Mother-Daughter Triangulation. Father-Daughter Alliance was characterized by high scores on Father-Daughter Role-Reversal and low scores on Marital Support and Marital Conflict. The Mother-Daughter Triangulation pattern was characterized by high scores on Mother-Daughter Role-Reversal, Conflict Mediation and Marital Conflict, and low scores on Marital Support. This constellation of scales defines the two family patterns in the present study as well.

Partners Ratings of Intimacy. Subjects completed an assessment of intimacy. Selected questionnaire items were intermingled from a number of standardized questionnaires, including Sharabany's Intimacy Scale, West & Zingle's Self-Disclosure Scale, and Frankel's Social Milieu Scale, resulting in a 62-item measure of intimacy. Factor analyses of responses from 130 college students revealed three factors: 1) **closeness** which assesses feelings of affection towards the partner; 2) **reliance** on partner to meet emotional needs (vs. self-reliance); and 3) **conflict** which taps anger towards the partner, amount of conflict, and difficulties resolving conflict.

Dyadic Interaction Tasks. Dyads participated in 4 interaction tasks. First, dyads q-sorted 35 cards containing personality adjectives, such as "considerate" and "self-centered", into 7 piles from least characteristic to most characteristic of the ideal partner. Next, dyads rated themselves and their partner on the cards they agreed to be most characteristic of an ideal partner. Items were rated on a 7-point scale from most to least characteristic of self or partner. If ratings differed by at least one point, dyads were instructed to agree on a third rating. For example, the boyfriend might receive a "4" on "considerate" from his girlfriend but may have given himself a "7". The dyad discussed this discrepancy with each other and then provided a third rating. Third, dyads discussed a series of questions related to goals for themselves and the relationship over the next 15 years. Questions included career and family plans, what they would most like to keep or change about

themselves, and whether they would still be together. Finally, dyads discussed what they like best about each other, and then identified and discussed an area of conflict.

Observations of Intimacy. Dyadic interactions were coded on four 7-point scales: Positive Affectivity, Emotional Engagement, Balance and Hostility (adapted from Fleeson, 1988). **Positive Affectivity** is a measure of warmth, caring and fun. High scores on this scale indicated that the dyad enjoyed sharing the task, and showed warmth and high personal regard toward each other communicated by warm voice tones, compliments, smiles, and affectionate physical contact. Low scores were given to those couples who did not evidence a sense of caring or fun. The task seemed to be a burden to these dyads, and their expressions were somber. The **Emotional Engagement** scale involves the ability to stay engaged rather than to withdraw while either of the two partners expressed affection and negative feelings. Dyads given a high score listened to each other, discussed personal issues, shared emotional states, maintained eye contact, and were physically oriented towards each other, rather than moving apart, even when discussing areas of conflict . Lower scores were given to dyads who were disengaged. Disengaged dyads tended to avoid each other, and were marked by little eye contact, closed body positions, few personal comments, and a tendency to talk past each other or a failure to talk at all.

High scores on the **Balance** scale indicated the ability to express one's own needs, which involved revealing vulnerabilities, open and direct communication about feelings, asserting one's wishes, and, at the same time, considering the other person's needs. Lower scores on the balance scale were given to dyads in which one or both partners did not assert their own needs. Instead, they were almost completely oriented to pleasing their partner. A low score on balance was also given to those couples who were characterized by little interaction, concealed feelings and minimal vulnerabilities. **Hostility** assesses indirect expressions of anger. High scores represented cynical, punitive, aggressive, and hostile put-downs. These interactions involved an element of personal

disregard and rejection expressed by sarcastic comments, as well as laughter at the other's mistake. Pain and hurt were deliberately ignored. Low scores indicated an absence of these signs. Angry comments were responded to directly, and pain and hurt were not ignored.

There was 80% exact agreement or 1-point discrepancy between coders based on 25 cases. Interrater reliability was $r = .76$, $p < .001$.

Results and Discussion

Family Relationship Patterns and Intimacy.

The first set of analyses tested the hypothesis that higher scores on Father-Daughter Alliances relate to females' perceptions of being less able to rely on their intimate partner in times of need, feeling less close, and having more feelings of anger and conflict. As shown in Table 1, we found a negative trend between father-daughter alliances (FDA) and reliance on others ($r=-.27$, $p<.10$), and a significant positive relationship between FDA and conflict ($r=.40$, $p<.05$). In other words, females who scored higher on the Father-Daughter Alliance Scale perceived that they could not rely on (or trust) their intimate partner, and that there was more unresolved conflict and/or feelings of hostility in their relationship. Contrary to our predictions, we did not find a significant relationship between FDA and feelings of closeness with partner ($r=-.10$, n.s.).

Correlations were also performed to test the hypothesis that higher scores on Mother-Daughter Triangulation (MDT) would be related to females' lower ratings of reliance on their partner in times of need, and lower closeness ratings. We did not predict, however, that these women would perceive more conflict in their current relationship in light of their past family role as a mediator in which they sought to negate and/or resolve family conflict. As seen in Table 1, we found a significant negative relationship between MDT and ratings of closeness ($r=-.51$, $p<.01$), and reliance ($r=-.46$, $p<.05$). Women who experienced boundary dissolution with their mothers coupled with family conflict and lack of emotional support between their parents also reported

feeling less close to their intimate partners and less able to rely on them in times of need. As predicted, there was no relationship between the mother-daughter pattern and the subjects' perception of conflict within their current relationship ($r=.09$, n.s.).

The second set of analyses performed assessed the relationship between these two family patterns and the behavioral observation codings of the four dyadic interaction tasks. We predicted that women who experienced Father-Daughter Alliances would be observed to demonstrate less positive affect in their intimate relationships, less balance of their own needs with those of their partner, more emotional distance and disengagement, and more indirect anger and hostility. As Table 1 shows our hypotheses were supported by the significant negative correlations between FDA and Balance ($r=-.39$, $p<.05$), and Positive Affectivity ($r=-39$, $p<.05$), and the significant positive correlation between FDA and Hostility ($r=.34$, $p<.05$). We also found a negative trend for the relationship between FDA and Emotional Engagement ($r=-.25$, $p<.10$).

Correlations were then performed to assess the relationship between Mother-Daughter Triangulation and the four observation scales. We predicted, similar to FDA, that higher scores on MDT would be related to an inability to balance needs of self and other. We hypothesized, however, that there would be a positive correlation between MDT and Emotional Engagement. This prediction corresponds to the notion that women who mediated parental conflict in their own family of origin, would become hypervigilant, or excessively attuned to their partner's affect during times of stress or conflict. Similarly, we did not predict a relationship between MDT and Hostility because of these women's attempts to avoid and minimize conflict. Also, unlike our prediction for Father-Daughter Alliances, we did not hypothesize that MDT would be related to lower levels of positive affectivity. We based this prediction on findings from a previous study, in which we found no relationship between MDT and feelings of negative affectivity such as depression or anxiety. As shown in Table 1, there was no significant relationship between MDT and Positive Affectivity

(r=.21, n.s.), or Hostility (r=.11, n.s.). As we predicted, we did find a significant negative correlation between MDT and the ability to balance needs of self and other (r=.47, p<.05). We did not, however, find MDT to be significantly related to higher levels of Emotional Engagement (r=.19, n.s.).

Relationship Between Marital, Parent-Child Relationships and Intimacy.

This set of analyses tested whether intimacy in females' relationships with their partners is merely a recreation of the uni-directional marital or parent-child relationship. First, we assessed if the dynamics of the current intimate relationship were related to the quality of the parent's marital relationship independent of the parent-child relationship. Secondly, we assessed the relationship of the parent-child relationship on current intimacy independent of the quality of their parents' marital relationship. As shown in table 2, females perceptions of intimacy with their boyfriend and observational ratings of intimacy show similar relationships with mother-daughter role-reversal as they do with Mother-Daughter Triangulation. It appears that considering the entire family system does not provide a more complete understanding than considering the mother-daughter relationship alone. However, the pattern with Father-Daughter Alliance is different. As shown in table 3, females' perceptions of conflict with their boyfriend and observational ratings of balance and hostility show significant links with Father-Daughter Alliances but not with recollections of the marital relationship or with Father-Daughter Role-Reversal. Such data suggest that understanding the entire network of family relationships is important in understanding females' expression of negative affectivity in intimate relationships.

Concluding Remarks

Findings from the present study support previous findings that young adults represent their family relationships as a coherent network. Memories of parent-child relationships are related in predictable ways to qualities of marital relationships. Family systems theory was used to predict

that women who recalled Father-Daughter Alliances and Mother-Daughter Triangulation would be especially vulnerable to emotional problems. In the present study specifically, females who recalled aligning with their fathers during childhood report being less able to rely on their intimate partner in times of need and as having more anger toward their partner. They were observed to show less positive affect with their partner, less ability to balance their needs with those of their partner during interaction tasks, less emotional engagement, and more indirect hostility and anger. These findings are congruent with findings from a previous study in which Father-Daughter Alliances were related to more reports of negative affectivity, i.e., depression and anxiety, and lower feelings of self-esteem.

Similar to these findings, females who experienced the Mother-Daughter Triangulation pattern in their family also reported less reliance on their intimate partner in times of need and more distance in their relationship. Likewise they were observed to have difficulties balancing their needs with those of their partner during interaction tasks. Unlike the women who reported being aligned with father, however, these women perceived less conflict in their intimate relationship, and were observed to show less hostility and negative affectivity in interactions with their partner. These women were also more emotionally engaged with their partner during conflict resolution tasks.

These two family patterns, Father-Daughter Alliances and Mother-Daughter Triangulation, both involve parents' reliance on their daughters, rather than their spouses, to meet their emotional needs. Daughters did not receive the needed parental guidance in either relationship. Why is it then that cross-gender alliances seem to be related to more problematic functioning in older adolescence? There are several possible explanations. First, it is likely that cross-gender parent-child alliances often involve overt or covert sexual elements. The relationship described for Father-Daughter Alliances in the present study is similar to the relationship pattern described by incest

victims. If the cross-gender alliances do indeed involve a sexual element, then, according to the incest taboo, they should be less common than same-sex alliances. And, in fact, in the present study, females' memories of having fathers who sought intimacy from them were more atypical than memories of their mothers seeking intimacy and emotional support from them. Further, incest victims whose perpetrator was their father often suffer from emotional difficulties similar to those experienced by the females who reported having experienced strong father-daughter alliances in the present study, for example lower levels of positive affectivity and higher hostility.

This cross-gender alliance could also be detrimental by indirectly influencing the daughters' development through its connection with other relationships in the same family. Fathers who align with their daughters, rather than their wives, may undermine the mother-daughter relationship. A conflicted or emotionally distant relationship between mothers and daughters may then compromise the daughters' emotional development. These hypotheses merit further investigation.

Finally, females who recalled that their fathers sought intimacy and affection from them, rather than their mothers, also recalled an absence of both emotional support and little conflict between their parents. Most studies of the effects of the marital relationship on the child have focused on the negative effects of marital conflict (Block, Block & Gjerde, 1986; Emery, 1988). Family therapists, however, have long argued that sex and fights are central to intimacy between couples (Whitaker & Keith, 1981). In contrast to previous studies which focus primarily on the presence of conflict, findings in the present study suggest that the *absence* of conflict and lack of emotional support between parents, which is a characteristic pattern of the Father-Daughter Alliance system, has implications for the development of later relational problems. In closing, understanding the entire network of family relationships provided a basis for understanding females' regulation of negative affect in intimate relationships.

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CROSS-GENERATIONAL ALLIANCES

1) **Parents have an emotionally distant relationship.**

2) **Little overt conflict between the parents.**

3) **Parents rely on opposite-gender child, rather than spouse, to meet their emotional needs.**

4) **Parents do not provide child with needed parental guidance and support.**

TRIANGULATED FAMILY PATTERN

1) **Parents have a conflicted and emotionally distant relationship.**

2) **Parents rely on same-gender child, rather than spouse, to meet their emotional needs.**

3) **The child is often expected to take sides with one parent against other.**

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS

FATHER-DAUGHTER ALLIANCE

- **Father-Daughter Role-Reversal**
- **Marital Distance**

MOTHER-DAUGHTER TRIANGULATION

- **Mother-Daughter Role Reversal**
- **Marital Distance**
- **Marital Conflict**
- **Conflict Mediation**

SUBJECTS

Ages 19 to 22 years (X = 20)

Mostly white (78%)

Mostly middle SES (85%)

Intact Families

Resided in Austin for at least one year

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

Family Relationship History

Father-Daughter Alliances

Father-Daughter Role-Reversal
Marital Distance

Mother-Daughter Triangulation

Mother-Daughter Role-Reversal
Conflict Mediation
Marital Conflict
Marital Distance

Perceptions of Intimacy

Closeness
Reliance
Conflict

Behavioral Ratings of Intimacy

Balance
Hostility
Emotional Engagement
Postive Affectivity

Table 1. Correlations Between Family Relationships and Intimacy Ratings with Romantic Partners (N=27)

Intimacy Measures	Childhood Family Relationships	
	Father-Daughter Alliances	Mother-Daughter Triangulation
Perceptions of Intimacy		
Closeness	-.10	-.51**
Reliance on Other	-.27†	-.46*
Conflict	.40*	.09
Behavioral Ratings		
Balance	-.39*	-.47**
Hostility	.34*	.11
Emotional Engagement	-.25†	.18
Positive Affectivity	-.38*	-.21

†p<.10
*p<.05
**p<.01

Table 2. Correlations Between Family Relationships and Intimacy Ratings with Romantic Partners (N=27)

Intimacy Measures	Mother-Daughter Triangulation	Mother-Daughter Role Reversal	Conflict Mediation	Marital Conflict	Marital Distance
Perceptions of Intimacy					
Closeness	-.51**	-.43*	-.22	-.42*	.02
Reliance	-.46*	-.46*	-.13	-.27†	-.25†
Conflict	.09	.08	-.08	-.06	-.35*
Behavioral Ratings					
Balance	-.47**	-.52**	-.25†	-.26†	-.08
Hostility	.11	.09	.19	-.10	.20
Emotional Engagement	.18	.25†	.01	.31*	-.27†
Positive Affectivity	-.21	-.20	-.28†	.03	-.17

†p<.10
*p<.05
**p<.01

Table 3. Correlations Between Family Relationships and Intimacy Ratings with Romantic Partners (N=27)

	Father-Daughter Alliances	Father-Daughter Role-Reversal	Marital Distance
Perceptions of Intimacy			
Closeness	-.10	.19	.02
Reliance	-.27†	.22	-.25†
Conflict	.40*	.04	.35*
Behavioral Ratings			
Balance	-.39*	-.14	-.08
Hostility	.34*	.02	.20
Emotional Engagement	-.25†	.04	-.27†
Positive Affectivity	-.39*	-.35*	-.17

†p<.10
*p<.05
**p<.01